

Great Lakes National Program Office Update to Tribal Governments

Environmental Program Management Conference
February 2012



OVERVIEW

- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA): Status of Negotiating an Amended Agreement with Canada; US Tribal Briefing
- Summary of GLRI funding to tribal governments in 2011
- Status of 2012 Request for Applications (RFA)

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT



Status of Negotiating an Amended Agreement with Canada U.S. Tribal Briefing

Chicago – February 21, 2012

HISTORY – CURRENT AGREEMENT



- Joint commitments to implement programs:
 - Reduce nutrients and toxics.
 - Monitor water pollution and biological quality.
 - Develop Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern .
 - Develop Lakewide management programs
- International Joint Commission oversight
- Periodic reporting on progress.
- Periodic review of the Agreement.

HISTORY – CONCLUSIONS OF PUBLIC REVIEW



- The Great Lakes facing new challenges not envisioned in existing Agreement, e.g., emerging chemicals, invasive species, and climate change impacts.
- Greater attention to the nearshore zone , the area most heavily used by people for recreation and commerce.
- Roles of federal, state, tribal, municipalities, others.
- Emphasize pollution prevention activities.
- A more flexible and adaptable Agreement



HISTORY – NEGOTIATION PROCESS

Plenary 1 – January 2010
Structure and Process; “Charge” Governance Leads



Plenary 2 – April 2010
“Charge” Specific Environmental Issue Leads



Plenary 3 – June 2011
Agree on Positions and Charge the Drafting Team



Plenary 4 – January 2012
Agreement on Text for Formal Approvals



New Agreement – Spring 2012 (tentative)

HISTORY – CONSULTATIONS



➤ **Binational**

- IJC 2004-2005
- Agreement Review 2006-2007
- Public Webinars January and Spring 2010
- Written Comments
- Binational Public Forums and Webinar Sept 2011

➤ **Domestic**

- USPC Meeting and Public Forum Spring 2010
- NGO Listening Session Summer 2010
- Tribal Caucus Calls 2010 and 2011
- Numerous phone calls, emails, letters, RTOC Updates
- Federal consultations Winter 2011
- USPC Meeting February 11, 2011
- New York Tribes March 1, 2011

OVERVIEW OF REVITALIZED AGREEMENT

➤ Articles

- I. Definitions
- II. Purpose, Principles and Approaches
- III. General and Specific Objectives
- IV. Implementation
- V. Consultation, Management, Review
- VI. Notification and Response
- VII. The International Joint Commission
- VIII. Commission Boards and Regional Office
- IX. Existing Rights and Obligations
- X. Amendment
- XI. Termination

➤ Annexes

1. Areas of Concern
2. Lakewide Management
3. Chemical Substances of Concern
4. Nutrients
5. Discharges from Vessels
6. Aquatic Invasive Species
7. Habitat and Species
8. Groundwater
9. Climate Change Impacts
10. Science



OVERVIEW – RETAINING TOPICS FROM EXISTING AGREEMENT

Example: Nutrients

- Continue to rely on domestic regulatory programs
- Pursue science on nutrients, including role of dissolved phosphorus and effect of zebra mussels
- Develop binational models for nutrient target-setting, especially Lake Erie
- Continue research, surveillance and monitoring activities



OVERVIEW – RETAINING TOPICS FROM EXISTING AGREEMENT

Example: Chemical Substances of Mutual Concern

- Continue to rely on domestic regulatory programs
- Promote pollution prevention and green technology
- Promote binational information exchange
- Continue research, surveillance and monitoring activities



OVERVIEW – NEW ISSUES IN AGREEMENT

- **Invasive Species:** To protect Great Lakes water quality from Invasive Species, including coordination of assessments and rapid response efforts.
- **Habitats/Species:** Address Habitat/species and ecosystem functions as endpoints for water quality management.
- **Climate Change Impacts:** Commits to coordinated scientific understanding and capacity building regarding impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes.



TRIBES AND THE REVITALIZED AGREEMENT



- Tribal Governments explicitly acknowledged
- Recognizes Tribal authority
- Requires federal consultation and coordination with Tribal programs
- Acknowledges Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Opportunities for Tribes as members of GLEC
- Domestic Implementation roles for GLRI and TEAs

NEXT STEPS...

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- Final interagency review
- French Translation
- Legal Scrub
- Domestic Approvals to close negotiations
- Anticipated Signing: Spring 2012

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE



Summary of GLRI funding to tribal governments
in 2011

Chicago – February 21, 2012

GLRI FUNDING TO TRIBAL GOVS. 2011

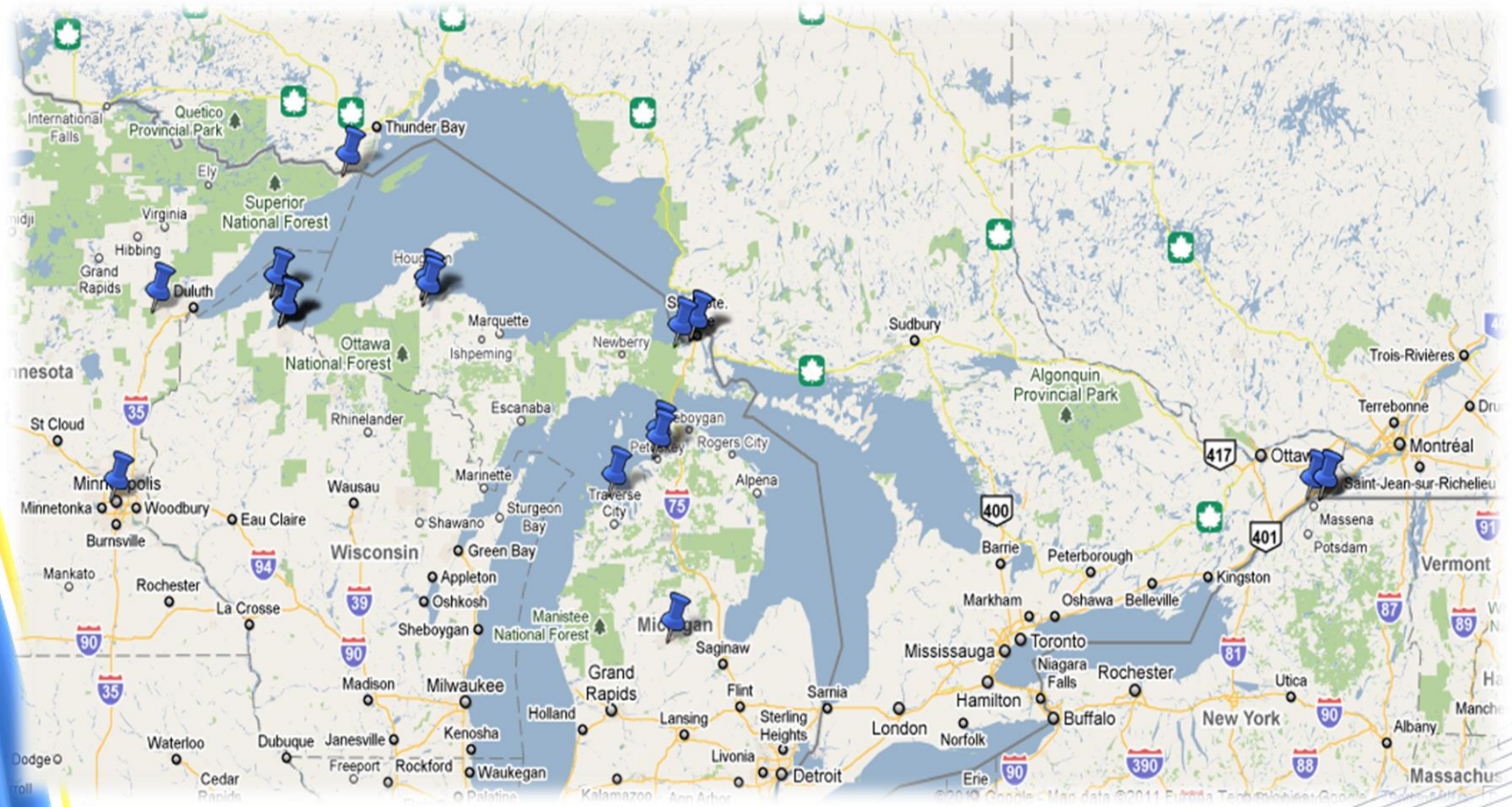
➤ COMPETITIVE FUNDING

- Applications received from tribal governments= **1**
- Projects selected= **1**
- Total competitive funding= **\$174,612**

➤ NON-COMPETITIVE FUNDING

- Tribal capacity building, Cooperative Agreements to tribes= **12**
- Total non-competitive funding= **\$1,254,265**

LOCATION OF PROJECTS



GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE



Status of 2012 Request for Applications (RFA)

Chicago – February 21, 2012

2012 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

- Applications are requested for projects identified within the following GLRI focus areas:
 1. Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern
 2. Invasive Species
 3. Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution
 4. Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships

2012 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

- Approximately **\$20 million** may be awarded
- About **105** projects (contingent on the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations)
- Project periods are generally expected to range from **1yr-3yrs**

2012 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

- Important Dates:
 - **March 2012***: Full and complete applications due to EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
 - **April 2012***: Begin notifying applicants of preliminary selections
 - **June 2012***: Begin making official awards

*Dates are tentative and subject to change

2012 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

- How to submit your application/s:

Electronically at: <http://www.grants.gov>

For Additional Information Contact:

GLRI: George Stone at 312- or
stone.george@epa.gov

GLWQA: John Haugland at 312-886-9853 or
haugland.john@epa.gov

